THE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1784. [No. 1168.]

NEWPORT MERCURY.

Containing the freſheſt ADVICES FORRIGN and DOMESTIC.

Printed by HENRY BARBER, at the Foot of the PARADE.

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"*up, nor own a Senſe beyond the Public Safety.*" BROOKES's GUSTAVUS VASA.

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With ſome OCCASIONAL OBSERVATIONS.

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The Britiſh appear to have been exceedingly diſappointed and mortified at the order and regularity which immediately took place upon the evacuation. They had predicted nothing but riots, revenge and tumults; and, under this expectation, the laſt ſcene they were witneſs to in America, confounded them like a conqueſt.

It is melancholy to reflect (for reflection will find its way even to the ſevereſt heart) how many thouſands their aſſuming arrogance and deluſive proclamations have ruined, and how many more their falſe alarms have unneceſſarily frightened away—Hundreds, who might have ſtaid in ſafety; and many, no doubt, remain, who can have no good pretenſions to be here.

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Diſtreſs, in any ſhape it can be preſented to us, will, in ſpite of reſentment, find a way to ſoften it; and the difference between threatening revenge and acting it, is ſo exceedingly great, that thoſe who threaten the higheſt, generally puniſh the leaſt.

A fallen enemy appears a different being to what he did before; and in our conqueſt over him, one half our reſentments are conquered with him.

Clemency and generoſity are as naturally the companions of a great mind, as revenge and cruelty are of a little one. The former diſdains to trample on the vanquiſhed, and the latter makes it his only ſcene of action. If we look into the characters that have been the moſt eminent throughout the whole of the conteſt, we ſhall find, greatneſs and benevolence are united qualities.—For the heart that can be generouſly warmed with the love and principles of liberty, feels its happineſs increaſed, by ſharing it with the world.

COMMON SENSE.

POLAND, September 20.

THE news lately ſpread, that the countries that border on the Black-Sea to the Eaſtward, from Cuban down towards Armenia, had ſubmitted to the ſceptre of Ruſſia, is confirmed. The Princes Heraclius and Solomon, who divide between them the dominion of Georgia and Mingrelia, have claimed the protection of the Empreſs, and have for that purpoſe ſent deputies to the Ruſſian army in Crimea. According to ſome advices, the firſt of theſe Princes is negociating with the Court of Peterſburgh for the ceſſion of his country, after the example of the Khan of Crimea, on condition of a large penſion from the Empreſs; but this is not confirmed yet.

LONDON, November 16.

A mechanic at Nancy, in Lorraine, has been for ſome time buſied about the invention of a machine for enabling men to fly. He began with weighing the carcaſes of all the birds he could procure, and meaſuring the expanſion of their wings, to diſcover the proportion of the one to the other. He has yet ſucceeded no farther than to fly from off a high barn, and to alight on the ground, at the diſtance of about 100 yards. In one flight, a gale of wind blowing him a little out of his direction, he fell into a large pond, to the no ſmall entertainment of all his neighbours. His wings ſpread ſo great a ſpace, that he drops perpendicularly from the higheſt ſteeples without danger, deſcending too gradually to be hurt.

The following letter, wrote by a Captain of a veſſel juſt arrived from America, who deſires it may be made public, concerning ſome rocks lying off the iſland of St. Mary, one of the Weſtern iſlands, called the Formigas, which were ſo dreaded by him, that he has gone thirty or forty leagues out of his courſe to avoid them, for the benefit of future navigators:—

"I am juſt arrived from America; and off the iſland of St. Mary, one of the Weſtern Iſlands, was becalmed. Moſt navigators, as well as geographers, have laid down the channel between the iſland St. Mary, and the rocks called Formigas, as very dangerous, and not frequented by ſhipping. Being within two leagues of theſe rocks when becalmed, I had the curioſity to hoiſt my boat out, to be fully ſatisfied whether the account given by the modern geographers was juſt. From the ſhip towards the rocks I kept ſounding, the Eaſt-end of St. Mary's bearing from the ſhip W. by S. diſtant one league. The Formigas, as you approach them, appear dreadfully, breakers flying higher than a ſhip's maſt head, although calm. The ſea run from the weſtward, ſo had an opportunity of landing on the Eaſt-ſide of the rocks, but could find no ſoundings, with fifty fathom line, till within thirty yards of the rocks. They bear from the iſland St. Mary N. E. by N. diſtant about three leagues, extending from N. to S. about three quarters of a mile. Cloſe along ſide the Formigas is ſeven fathom water. The higheſt rock is from the ſurface of the water about ſixty feet perpendicular. We ſounded from the rocks towards St. Mary's, but could find no bottom with 120 fathom line, till within a quarter of a mile from St. Mary's when we had fifty fathom water, which proves, that the accounts publiſhed by geographers are certainly erroneous, as the whole navy of England may run through that channel abreaſt, without the leaſt danger."

Miniſtry have experienced the impolicy and inefficacy of the Proclamation which prohibited a trade with the Weſt-India iſlands in American bottoms; and we have it from undoubted authority, that one of the firſt meaſures will be annulling this Proclamation.—Recanting an error is a ſign of grace; but not to commit one is a mark of wiſdom.

Faſhion has long been looked upon as a harpy of the moſt deluſive kind; a recent melancholy inſtance, we hope, will have a juſt weight with our fair readers not to follow it beyond the line of reaſon, as they may depend on it as a fact, that a moſt amiable young lady, whoſe name we conceal, out of reſpect to her family, and who was lately married, from the conſtant uſe of a preparation to change the colour of her hair, loſt the uſe of her ſenſes, and died raving mad in the courſe of laſt week.

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LONDON, October 30.

The following are the particulars concerning the national bankruptcy that lately happened at Paris.

IN the year 1776, thirteen bankers, the moſt eminent in France, funded five and tweny millions for the eſtabliſhment of a Caiſſe d'Eſconte, literally a cheſt of diſcount, that is, a diſcounting bank; the purport of which was, to diſcount bills of exchange, part in caſh and part in notes, in imitation of our bank notes, for the purpoſe of facilitating trade, and at the ſame time of ſupplying the occaſional wants of government. This ſcheme had the deſired effect, and anſwered the public expectation, till the 25th of laſt month, when an extraordinary and unexpected run of creditors put the directors under the neceſſity of ſtopping payment. The deficiency is not yet aſcertained, but it muſt be very conſiderable, ſince they were hardly able to pay 700,000 livres. The event being ſoon ſpread abroad, occaſioned an univerſal alarm; upon which, the Miniſtry made uſe of every political meaſure to prevent any bad conſequence, as in the time of the famous Scotchman, Law. Soon after, appeared four edicts of the King, which they had the precaution of antedating of five days—The firſt forbidding all notaries to proteſt the notes iſſued from the Caiſſe d'Eſconte, under penalty of a mulct, beſides corporal puniſhment—the ſecond ſtopping all demands on the aforeſaid bank till the firſt of January, 1784—The third enjoining all perſons to receive the above notes in payment, without any ſort of difficulty—The fourth laying a very heavy duty on all the ſpecie exported. In the mean time, orders were deſpatched to all the mints throughout the kingdom, to enable the bank to continue its payment.

The Cabinets of Europe were ſcarcely ever more buſily employed than at this time; the ſeveral Powers that have juſt cloſed an expenſive war, are buſied in reviewing the ſtate of their finances, and in putting ſuch ſchemes of economy into execution, as are become neceſſary for the welfare of the State; while they are no leſs ſolicitous in forming new ſchemes of commerce, and reviving all thoſe ſtreams of traffic which hoſtilities have neceſſarily put a ſtop to: Ruſſia and the Port are preparing for a war, which is likely to prove long, expenſive and bloody; the Emperor is at preſent barely a looker-on—what part he may take hereafter, time and circumſtances can only determine: the King of Pruſſia, old as he is, is playing a game alſo in the North, which will certainly be the foundation of future broils: Sweden and Denmark are now, as for years paſt, watching each other; in their commerce and intereſts they are nearly as natural rivals as Great-Britain and France: the Italian Powers are but of ſmall conſideration in the political ſcale at preſent, though the King of Sardinia's concurrence in ſome ſchemes may be found neceſſary to ſome of the powers in due time. In one point all the principal powers appear to have ſome aim; the concluding treaties of commerce with the new empire in America, from which they have certainly pictured to themſelves, vaſt ſervices and emoluments.

Jocular Anecdote—A widow who had been taught by the declarations of her deceaſed huſband to believe that he would make a will much in her favour, after his death, found, upon opening his teſtament, that he had acted very differently, and excluded her from the property ſhe expected to poſſeſs. She made known her diſappointment to her female ſervant, who cheared her ſpirits by aſſuring her that the effect of the will might be avoided, and a new one eaſily framed. The miſtreſs deſired to know by what means? The maid anſwered, that there was a poor fellow named *Tom the Barber* in the neighbourhood, who much reſembled her late maſter, and that for a ſmall ſum he would feign himſelf a dying man. If therefore an attorney was provided, and proper witneſſes, a will ſubſequent to the date of the true one, which conſequently would ſupercede it, might be made. Tom was ſent for accordingly, and agreed to play his part. The parties were ſummoned, the attorney attended, and the ſuppoſed expiring huſband dictated his laſt teſtament to be framed according to the wiſhes and intereſts of his imaginary wife for ſome time; but at length he propoſed, that as he had till then complied with her deſires, he might leave one legacy according to his own, which was, five hundred pounds to *Tom the Barber*; and to prevent a diſcovery of the fraud, the lady was obliged to conſent to the propoſal, and faithfully to pay the money to the propoſer, in order to inſure his ſecrecy.

HALIFAX, January 16.

Extract of a letter from the Governor of Jamaica, dated October 16, 1783.

"I embrace the earlieſt opportunity of acquainting your Excellency, that veſſels from your government, loaded with ſtaves, boards, and lumber of all kinds; flour, corn, fiſh, ſtores, &c. will meet with good markets in this iſland; and I beg leave to aſſure you, that every encouragement and attention in my power, ſhall be ſhewn to his Majeſty's ſubjects of Nova-Scotia trading to Jamaica."

To his Excellency
The Governor of Nova-Scotia.

BOSTON, January 6.

Extract of a letter dated Annapolis, December 25, 1783.

"General Waſhington having requeſted leave to reſign his commiſſion, was admitted to a public audience on Tueſday laſt. The gallery was filled with a beautiful group of elegant Ladies, and ſome graced the *floor* of Congreſs. On *this* were likewiſe the Governor, Council and Legiſlature of the State, ſeveral General Officers, the Conſul General of France, and the reſpectable citizens of Annapolis. Congreſs were ſeated and covered, as Repreſentatives of the ſovereignty of the union, the ſpectators were uncovered and ſtanding. The General was introduced to a chair by the Secretary, who after a decent interval ordered ſilence. The Preſident then informed the General, That "the United States in Congreſs aſſembled were prepared to receive his communications," on which he roſe with great dignity and delivered his addreſs. This was followed by his advancing to the Preſident and reſigning his commiſſion.—He reſumed his place and received in a ſtanding poſture, the anſwer of Congreſs, which the Preſident delivered with eloquence. The occaſion produced a pleaſing ſolemnity that may more eaſily be conceived than expreſſed.—To ſee on the one hand ſo great and good a man taking his leave of public employments to ſpend the reſidue of his days in retirement, and his country on the other acknowledging his unprecedented merit, and with the moſt affectionate embraces, loading him with their bleſſings, exhibited a ſcene that drew tears from many of the ſpectators. He is now with his family, and may his rewards and enjoyments be in future adequate to his own important ſervices."

The great freſhet on Tueſday laſt carried away part of the great bridge in Watertown.

In the ſnow ſtorm on Friday laſt two fiſhing boats belonging to this town were loſt, and 'tis reported three perſons periſhed.

Thurſday laſt Archibald M'Neil (one of the proſcribed perſons, who went off with the enemy, and made his appearance in town, as mentioned in our laſt) was committed to goal agreeable to the law in that caſe made and provided; ſoon after which, his Excellency the Governor gave orders for his removal out of the State, and 'tis ſaid he is now on his way to his family at Quebec.

Extract of a letter from Philadelphia, January 8.

"As every anecdote reſpecting great men is important, I will give you one reſpecting Gen. Waſhington.—While in town he delivered in his accounts to the Comptroller, in a book. It comprehends a period of eight years, *all in his own hand writing*—and every entry made in the moſt particular manner, ſtating the occaſion of each charge, ſo as to give as little trouble as poſſible in examining them. In this you ſee he has been as exemplary as in every other part of his conduct:—Happy would it have been for the United States, had each perſon who has handled public money been equally exact and punctual!"

NEWPORT, February 14.

We hear a Number of Veſſels from Sea are now lying at Tarpawling-Cove, waiting for Weather to proceed to their reſpective Ports.

This Harbour, with the Rivers, are all cloſed with Ice from Caſtle-Hill to Providence, ſo that People have croſſed thereon from this Iſland to the Main.

Laſt Sunday Morning departed this Life, in an advanced Age, Mr. JAMES DURHAM, and on Tueſday his Remains were reſpectfully inter'd in Trinity Church-Yard.

The extreme cold Weather and Scarcity of News, has induced us to publiſh but Half a Sheet this Week, which we hope our Readers will excuſe, as we propoſe on the Arrival of any intereſting Intelligence, to make them ample Amends.

*** *Advertiſements omitted this Week will be carefully attended to in our next.*

§†§ The WESTERN MAIL *not arrived.*

NAVAL-OFFICE, *Port of Newport, Feb.* 14.

INWARD ENTRIES, *From*
NONE.

CLEARED, *For*
NONE.

On THURSDAY next will be publiſhed, and to be ſold, by SOLOMON SOUTHWICK, and the Printer hereof.

CONSIDERATIONS
On the Society or Order of
CINCINNATI;
LATELY INSTITUTED
By the Major-Generals, Brigadier-Generals, and Officers of the American Army.
Proving that it creates a Race of Hereditary
Patricians, or Nobility.
Interſperſed with Remarks on its Conſequences to the Freedom and Happineſs of the Republic.
Addreſſed to the People of South-Carolina, and their Repreſentatives.
By CASSIUS. Suppoſed to be written by Edanus Burke, Eſquire, one of the Chief Juſtices of the State of South-Carolina.
Blow ye the Trumpet in Zion. *The Bible.*

RAN away from Charles Baujean in Norwich in the State of Connecticut, on the 14th of January laſt, a Negro Man, named LEANDER, who is a Barber by Trade, ſpeaks both French and Engliſh, is about Five Feet Eight Inches high, ſomewhat pitted with the Small-pox. Whoever will apprehend ſaid Negro, and ſecure him in any of the Jails of the United States, and give Notice thereof to ſaid Baujean, or to the Subſcriber, at Tiverton, or deliver him to either, ſhall receive TEN DOLLARS Reward and all neceſſary Charges, paid by ſaid Baujean or PARDON GRAY.
Tiverton, Feb. 13, 1784.

ALL Perſons having Claims againſt the Eſtate of WILLIAM HARRISON, late of Newport, Miller, deceaſed, are deſired to exhibit the ſame: And thoſe indebted to ſaid Eſtate are requeſted to make immediate Payment to. ANN HARRISON, Adminiſtratrix.
Newport, February 12, 1784.

To be SOLD, on the 10th of March next, on the Premiſes, at 2 o'clock P. M. if not ſold at private Sale before,

ALL that LOT of LAND late the Property of Col. ROBERT ELLIOT, deceaſed, ſituate in Middletown, near Whitehall.—The Terms of Sale to be then known.
By Order of the Town-Council:
Witneſs,
PELEG BARKER jun. Council-Clerk.

ALL Perſons having any Demands againſt the Eſtate of Capt. EBENEZER VOSE, late of Newport, deceaſed, are requeſted to bring them in to either of us the Subſcribers, at our reſpective Dwellings, within three Months from this Date: And all thoſe indebted to ſaid Eſtate are deſired to make Payment within the above time to.
EDWARD VOSE,
JOHN HOLMES,
NATHANIEL SOWLE, } Executors.
Newport, February 7, 1784.

SNUFF.
EXCELLENT Snuff to be ſold, at Two Shillings and Five-pence per Dozen, by
CHARLES DUNBAR,
At his Shop the Corner of the Old Church Lane, Thames-ſtreet.
Alſo Weſt-India and other Goods cheap for Caſh, and a very good Aſſortment of Crockery Ware.